Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W

-----000247 100629Z /14

R 090629Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496 AMCONSUL AUCKLAND AMCONSUL MELBOUURNE AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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EO 11652: NA TAGS: EAIR, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM AUCKLAND-MELBOURNE FARE

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 02949, (B) STATE 142054 (NOTAL)

- 1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES REFTEL A, WHICH WE BELIEVE HELPS TO CLARIFY AIR FARE SITUATION CONSIDERABLY.
- 2. WE HAVE RECHECKED QANTAS AND AIR NEW ZEALAND SCHEDULES. AS STATED REFTEL, AIR NEW ZEALAND HAS DIRECT MELBOURNE-AUCKLAND FLIGHTS ON FRIDAY AND SUNDAY. QANTAS ADVISES US IT HAS A TUESDAY FLIGHT.
- 3. MELBOURNE-AUCKLAND FARE FOR ABOVE FLIGHTS IS A DOLS 168. PASSENGERS FLYING FROM MELBOURNE TO AUCKLAND ON ANY OTHER DAY OF THE WEEK MUST TRANSIT SYDNEY AND PAY SECTOR FARE OF A DOLS 53 FROM MELBOURNE TO SYDNEY AND SECTOR FARE OF A DOLS 145 FROM SYDNEY AUCKLAND, FOR A TOTAL OF A DOLS 198.

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4. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY PRECISELY WHAT NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS ARE STATING IN PARA 3 A OF REFTEL A. ARE THEY STATING THAT IF AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WISH TO CHARGE MELBOURNE-SYDNEY SECTOR FARE OF A DOLS 23 INSTEAD OF A DOLS 53 FOR THROUGH PASSENGERS TO AUCKLAND, THAT'S AUSTRALIA'S BUSINESS, BUT THAT SYDNEY-AUCKLAND CARRIER (E.G. AIR NEW ZEALAND) MUST RECEIVE FULL A DOLS 145 FARE? IMPLICATION OF THIS

POSITION IS, OF COURSE, THAT AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC CARRIERS ANSETT AND TAA WOULD CHARGE REGULAR MELBOURNE-SYDNEY PASSENGERS A DOLS BUT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CHARGE ONLY A DOLS 23 FOR THOSE MELBOURNE-SYDNEY PASSENGERS CONTINUING DIRECTLY TO NEW ZEALAND BY AIR NEW ZEALAND, QANTAS, AND PAN AM. SQUIRE

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